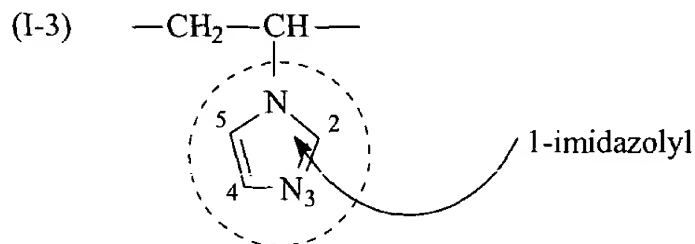


On the other hand, *Schwarz, Jr.* is silent with respect to a basic polymer having a side-chain containing 1-imidazolyl. *Schwarz, Jr.* (at col. 7) merely discloses a basic polymer having a side-chain containing 2-imidazolyl, which is illustrated below:



As is described above, the disclosures of *Schwarz, Jr.* cannot teach the present invention. Therefore, the rejection given at paragraph 6 in the Office Action should not be applied to the amended claims.

At paragraph 7 in the Office Action, Claims 1-9 are stated to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Gundlach et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,054,505).

Our comment on the rejection is as follows. Please note that the generic Claims 1 and 9 are amended as is mentioned above.

The amended claims define that the basic polymer has a side-chain containing 1-imidazolyl, as is described above.

On the other hand, *Gundlach et al* are silent with respect to the basic polymer having a side-chain containing 1-imidazolyl. *Gundlach et al* (at col. 12) merely discloses a basic polymer having a side-chain containing 2-imidazolyl, which is the same as the polymer disclosed in *Schwarz, Jr.* described above.

As is described above, the disclosures of *Gundlach et al* cannot teach the present invention. Therefore, the rejection given at paragraph 7 in the Office Action should not be applied to the amended claims.

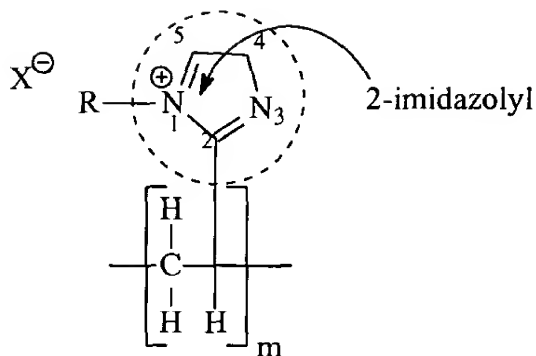
Please note that the generic Claims 1 and 9 are now combined with the Claims 4, 6 and 7. Accordingly, the amended claims are free from the rejections given at paragraphs 3-5, 8-10 and 13-17. In other words, only the rejections given at paragraphs 6 and 7 remain with respect to the amended claims.

We hereinafter comment on the remaining rejections given at paragraphs 6 and 7.

At paragraph 6 in the Office Action, Claims 1-9 are stated to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Schwarz, Jr.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,198).

Our comment on the rejection is as follows. Please note that the generic Claims 1 and 9 are amended as is mentioned above.

The amended claims define that the basic polymer has a side-chain containing 1-imidazolyl. As is described in the present specification on page 6, lines 11-13, the applicant has noted that the most preferred basic group of the polymer is 1-imidazolyl. Each of the repeating units (I-3), (I-4), (I-6), (I-7), (I-8), (I-9) and (I-10) shown in the present specification on pages 7 and 8 has a side-chain containing 1-imidazolyl. For example, the repeating unit (I-3) is illustrated below:



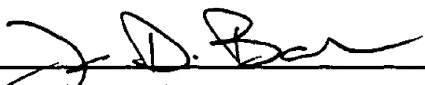
Accordingly, the polymers A-3 to A-16, A-23 and A-24 shown in the present specification on pages 9 to 10 has a side-chain containing 1-imidazolyl. Therefore, Examples 1 to 12 shown in Table 1 (in the present specification page 39) using the polymers A-4, A-23 or A-24 are still included within the scope of the amended claims.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Jonathan D. Baskin
Registration No. 39,499

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: August 25, 2000